



UNIVERSE

55

RATED T TEEN
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LOBDELL
NICIEZA
MOONEYHAM
BROWN
HI-FI

NIGHTWING

IF A NEW HERO
FAILS...



...A CITY **FALLS!**

CHRIS
MOONEYHAM
FILARDI



AQUAMAN

HOME IS CALLING

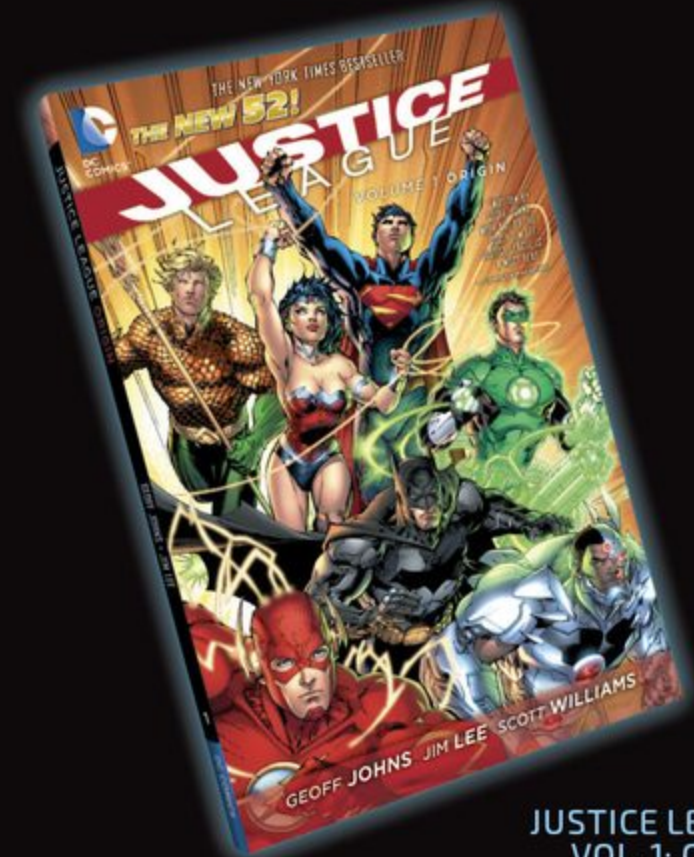
AQUAMAN:
WAR FOR THE
THRONE



AQUAMAN VOL. 1:
THE TRENCH



AQUAMAN VOL. 1:
THE DROWNING



JUSTICE LEAGUE
VOL. 1: ORIGIN

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TYLER
KIRKHAM

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NIGHTWING 55 LOBDELL • NICIEZA • MOONEYHAM • BROWN • HI-FI

THE PRODIGAL BAR.
BLÜDHAVEN.

Mr. Pennyworth explained it was a "Batcave."

A literal cave. With bats.

Apparently, I spent a good part of my childhood there.

Is it any wonder I prefer the company of polite strangers?

LAST CALL.

TOP OFF MY JAVA?

A NEW POT--AT THIS HOUR?

COFFEE MUST NOT BE WORKING--

--'CAUSE YOU'RE DREAMING, RIC.

NOW BE A DOLL AND KEEP AN EYE ON THE BAR FOR ME.

I CAN TAKE IT OUT FOR YOU, BEA.

THANKS, RIC, BUT **ELBOW GREASE** WON'T PAY DOWN YOUR **TAB**.

EH, WORTH A SHOT.

THUNK

...DAMNED BABY BLUES OF HIS ARE GONNA GET ME IN ALL SORTS OF...

WHO'S THERE?



THE
HELL--?!



SON
OF A--
--NNGGMMFF--



YOU
DRUNKS ARE
GONNA HAVE TO
GET OFF MY
PROP--



--WHAT
THE...?



I AM NOT
AFRAID!

GUESS THAT
MAKES TWO
OF US...



WE ARE NOT AFRAID!

=NNMM=



CHUD



THAK



KNCHH



HOW THE HELL DID YOU DO THAT?

ELBOW GREASE?

STILL NOT CLEARING YOUR TAB.

YEAH--WE GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE AND I'LL BUY YOU A DRINK.

Muscle memory kicked in again. (Don't think about it.)

Bullet to the brain, memory gone. (Don't think about it.)

Dick Grayson, the superhero code-named Nightwing. (Don't think about it.)

Who I was does come in handy once in a while, but there's a new Nightwing now...

...but I'm here, and he's not.

ONE HOUR EARLIER...

WE KNEW THE NEWS
WAS GOING TO
GET OUT SOONER
RATHER THAN
LATER.

DETECTIVE
SAPIENZA, IS IT
TRUE YOU'RE THE
NEW MASKED
VIGILANTE?

DIDN'T THINK IT WAS
GOING TO BE ALL OVER
THE JUMBOTRON IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE CBD.*

WHAT'S
DONE IS
DONE.

OOOH,
YOU'RE EVEN
SEXIER OUT OF
COSTUME!

THEY
CALL YOU *SAP--*
IS THAT BECAUSE
YOU TALKED THREE
OTHER *IMBECILES*
INTO PUTTING ON
TIGHTS, TOO?

*See last issue! --K.K.

FOR THE RETURN:
WING

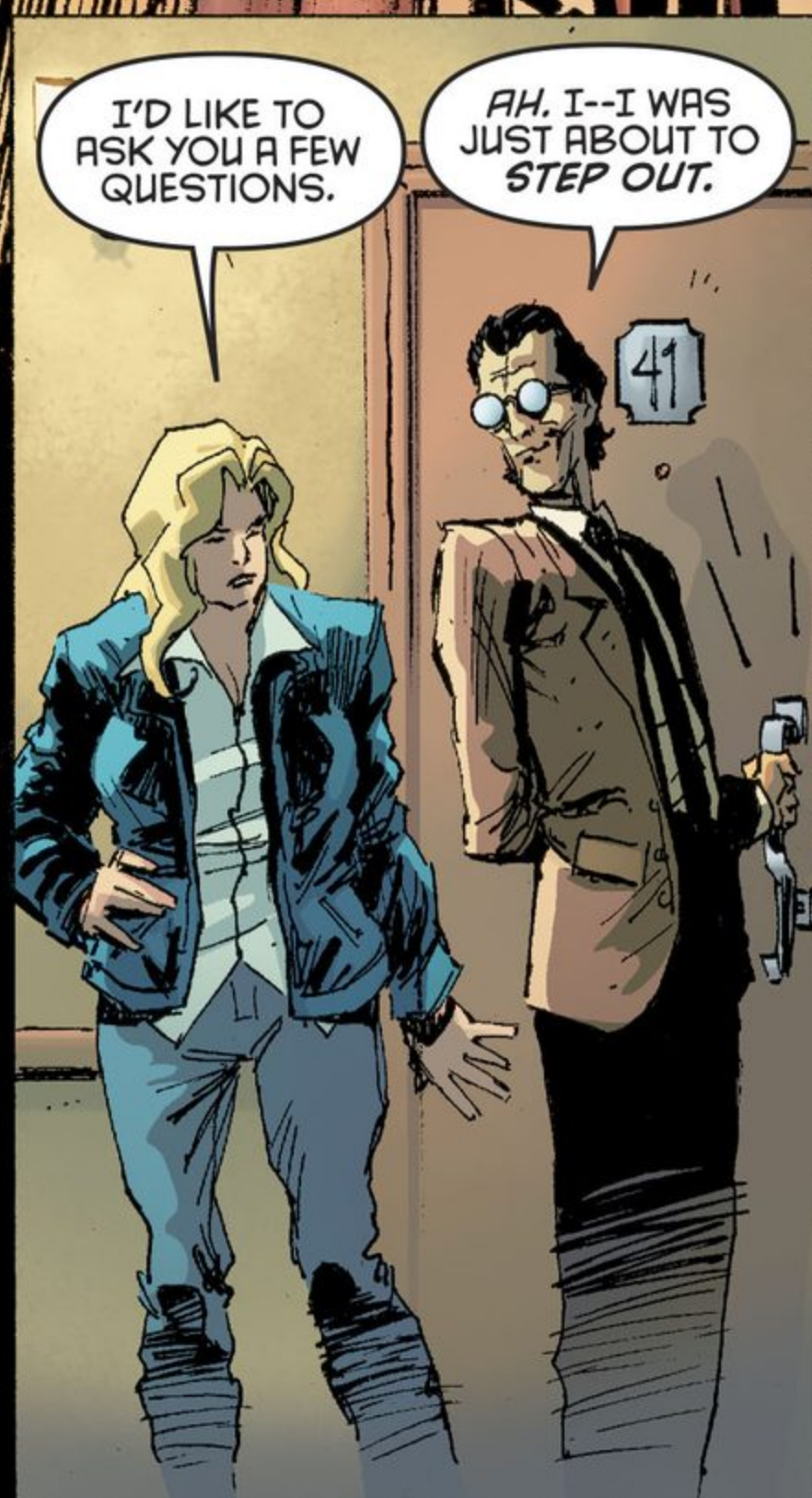
WILL YOU
IDIOTS CUT
IT OUT?



AVALON HEIGHTS.

"...JUST LIVING A
DOUBLE LIFE CAN
GET A BIT TIRING..."

NOK
NOK





YOU IMAGINE
CORRECTLY.

BEFORE YOU
STARTED WORKING
HERE IN BLÜDHAVEN,
WHERE DID YOU
PRACTICE?



GOTHAM
CITY.

THAT'S NOT
A *CRIME*, IS
IT?

MORE LIKE A
SENTENCE.



HERE'S THE
THING--I'M SURE
IT'S A CLERICAL
ERROR...

...BUT ARKHAM
ASYLUM CAN'T FIND
A *RECORD* OF YOU
ANYWHERE.

DID YOU WORK
UNDER A DIFFERENT
NAME, DR. GRUIDAE?



YES.
CRANE.

BUT YOU KNEW
THAT ALREADY,
DETECTIVE
SVOBODA.



WHY DO
YOU SAY
THAT?

BECAUSE THIS
CONVERSATION
IS A *PRETEXT*.

YOU WANTED
INSIDE MY
APARTMENT.



YOU WANTED
TO SEE WHAT I
WAS *HIDING*.

ARE YOU
SATISFIED?



YOU ARE
ONE SICK
RAT.



YOU
DON'T EVEN
KNOW.



DOWN
ON YOUR
KNEES--
UGH!



ABSOLUTELY
NOT.

SSSTHTHSSSS

KRAK

THE TRUTH IS--
YOU SHOULD HAVE
DIED OVER A *WEEK*
AGO, DETECTIVE
SVOBODA--

--WHEN I WAS
EXPERIMENTING
WITH MY NEW
FEAR GERM.

EMBEDDING IT
IN THE *DEAD BODY*
OF MR. ANDREW
WYMAN.*

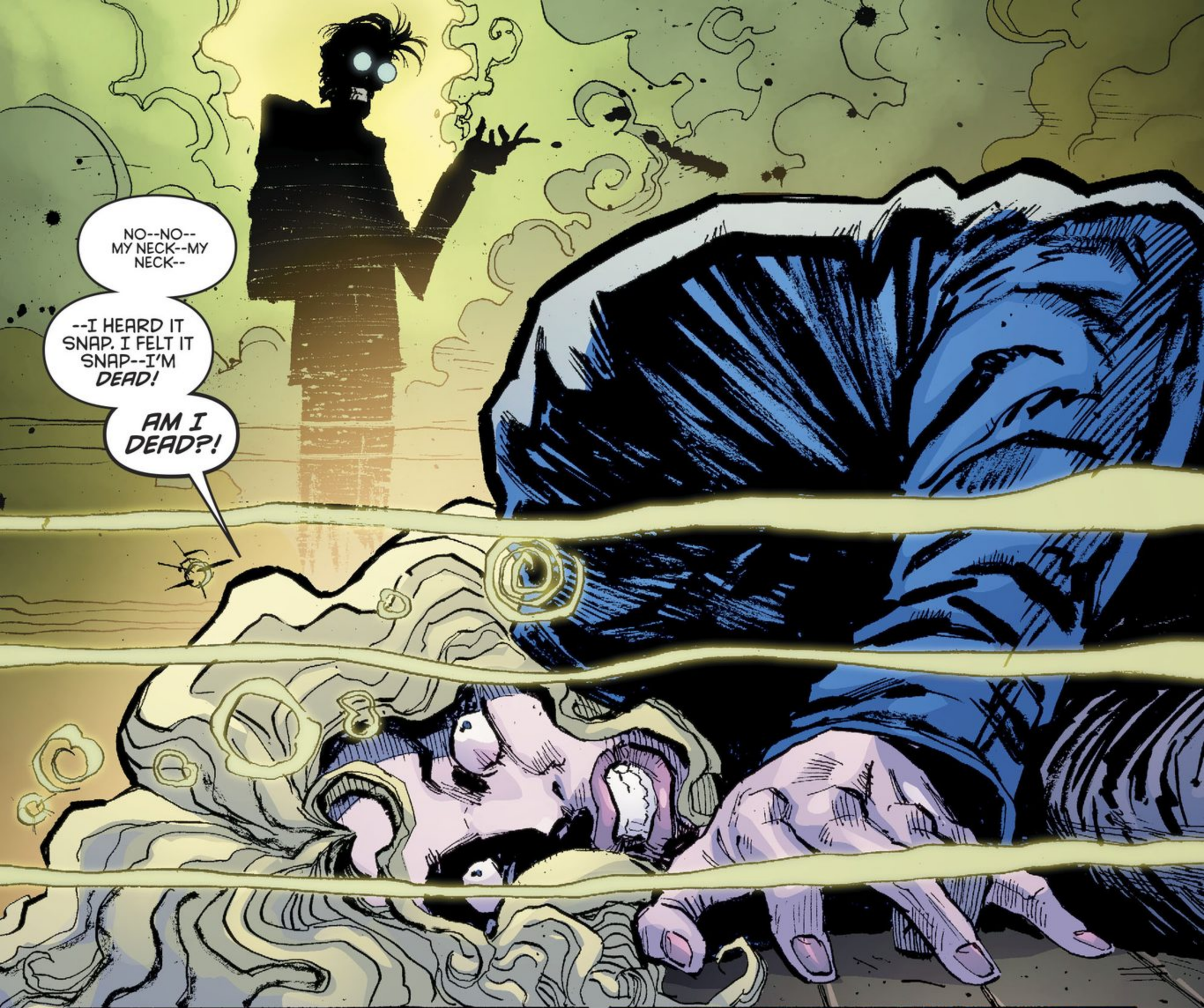
A PROBLEM
EASILY
CORRECTED.

JUST THINK,
DETECTIVE--
INSTEAD OF DYING
IN SOME COLD
AND LIFELESS
MORGUE--

--YOU GET TO
DIE IN THE HANDS
OF THE *MASTER*
OF FEAR:

**THE
SCARECROW!**

*See issue
#52!--K.K.



NO--NO--
MY NECK--MY
NECK--

--I HEARD IT
SNAP. I FELT IT
SNAP--I'M
DEAD!

AM I
DEAD?!



SO
INTRIGUING.

AFTER ALL THESE
YEARS, I AM NOT PRIVY
TO THE DETAILS OF THE
HALLUCINATIONS MY
FEAR GAS BRINGS TO
BEAR ON MY
PATIENTS.

WELL,
LET'S BE
HONEST--MY
VICTIMS.

IT'S ALL
GUESSWORK...



...MY GREATEST
WEAPON WILL
ALWAYS BE A
MYSTERY TO
ME.



WELL,
I GUESS
TONIGHT IS
AS GOOD A
NIGHT AS
ANY.

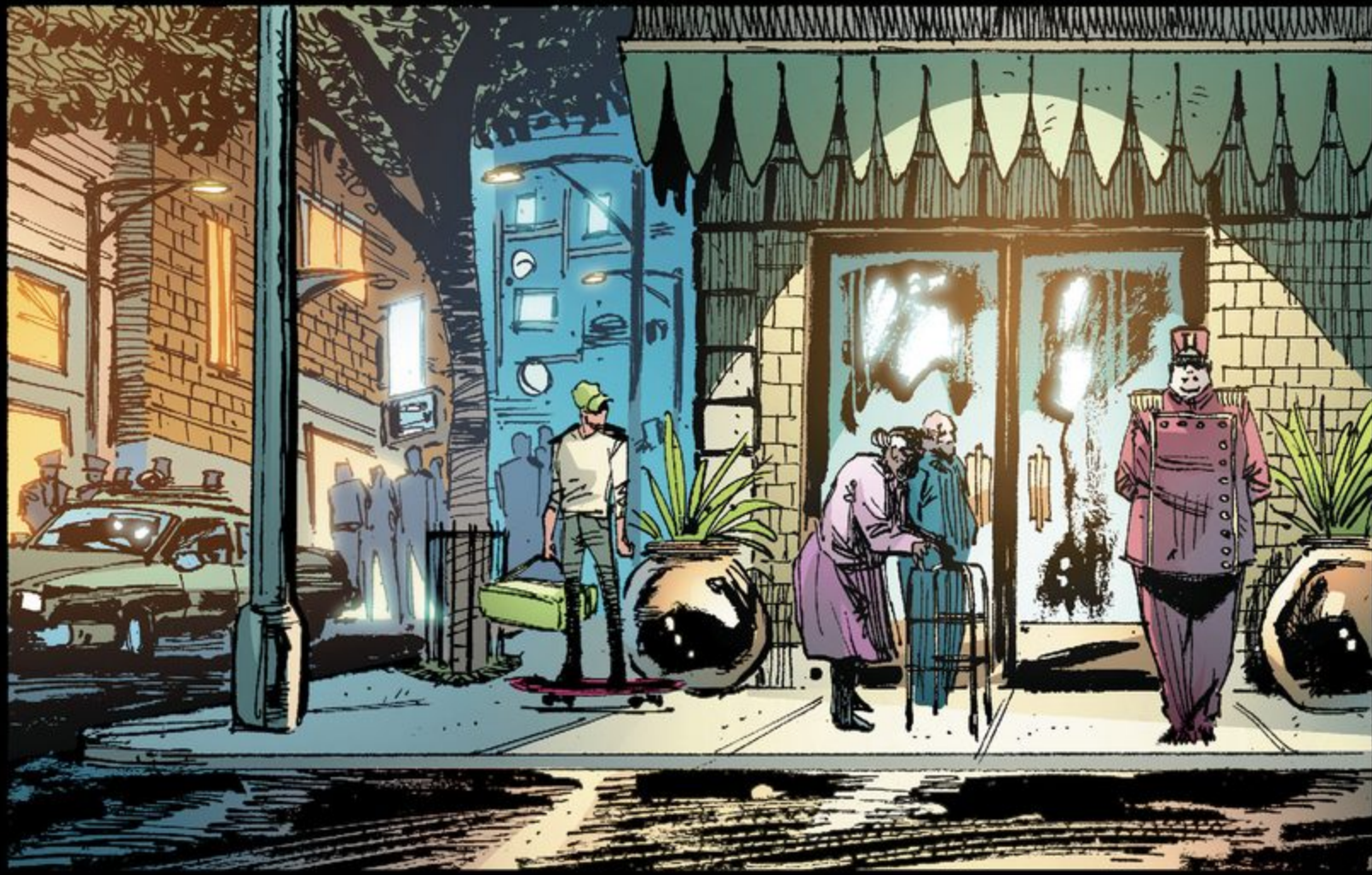
I WAS BEING
HONEST EARLIER,
BY THE WAY.

I *DO* NEED
TO STEP OUT.

BY THE TIME
YOU OVERCOME
THIS PARALYSIS,
DETECTIVE...

...BLÜDHAVEN
WILL HAVE
DEVoured
ITSELF.







NIGHTWING.

WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

A
SUPER-VILLAIN
PROBLEM.

HOW CAN
YOU TELL?

BECAUSE IT
LOOKS LIKE HALF
THE CITY BLOCK IS
TRYING TO *KILL* THE
OTHER HALF OF THE
CITY BLOCK.

THERE'S A
GUY DRESSED
LIKE A FREAKING
SCARECROW...

...AND HE'S
RELEASING
SOME SORT OF
GAS.

I'LL NEED
SUPPORT.

STAND
DOWN,
HUTCH.

WE
HAVEN'T BEEN
TRAINED FOR A
SITUATION LIKE
THIS.



NO CHOICE,
NIGHTWING. PEOPLE
ARE GETTING
HURT.

DON'T GO
IN SOLO.

JUST
HURRY UP...

**THE PRODIGAL BAR.
NOW.**

"...THIS IS
GETTING OUT
OF CONTROL!"

THE CITY
IS GOING
CRAZY--



"--HE'S GOING TO
GET HIMSELF **KILLED!**"

Well, that's a vote
of confidence.



And yet...I know
in my gut...



...I don't
need one.

Because I'm me.





The me who
was, the me
who is.

He can do
stuff like
this.

But to tell you the truth,
I have no **muscle memory**
about how to handle a **herd**
of **mad cattle** looking to
tear each other apart!

But why? A drug--a
gas it looks like--that
seems to make people so
unafraid they go on a
rampage to prove it?



Who stands
to gain from
that?

CARDY PARK:
AVALON HEIGHTS.

"THERE IS NOTHING
TO FEAR, BUT FEAR
ITSELF"--WE'VE HEARD
THAT SO OFTEN IT
RINGS *HOLLOW* TO
THE EAR.

SO I HAVE
COME TO *RULE* THIS
CITY BY MAKING
YOU *UNAFRAID*
OF FEAR!

I KNEW A
BOY ONCE, SO
FEARLESS IT...WELL,
IT *TERRIFIED*
ME.

AND I HAVE
SOUGHT TO *CAPTURE*
THAT BOY, NOW A YOUNG
MAN, AS A MEANS OF
FREEING MYSELF.

I WISH TO BE
FREE OF MY FEAR
AS I HAVE FREED
BLUDHAVEN.

ARE YOU *HIDING*,
MY LITTLE BIRD? IS
NIGHTWING AFRAID
TO COME OUT AND
PLAY?

KNIGHT TERRORS

PART
SIX

UNAFRAID OF FEAR

SCOTT LOBDELL PLOT
FABIAN NICIEZA SCRIPT
CHRIS MOONEYHAM and GARRY BROWN ARTISTS
HI-FI COLORS AND WORLD DESIGN LETTERS
CHRIS MOONEYHAM and NICK FILARDI COVER
TYLER KIRKHAM VARIANT COVER
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASST. EDITOR
KATIE KUBERT EDITOR
JAMIE S. RICH GROUP EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFGAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

I THINK... THAT THIS
EVENING COULDN'T
HAVE GOTTEN ANY
BETTER...

NEXT:

ANSWERING THE CALL

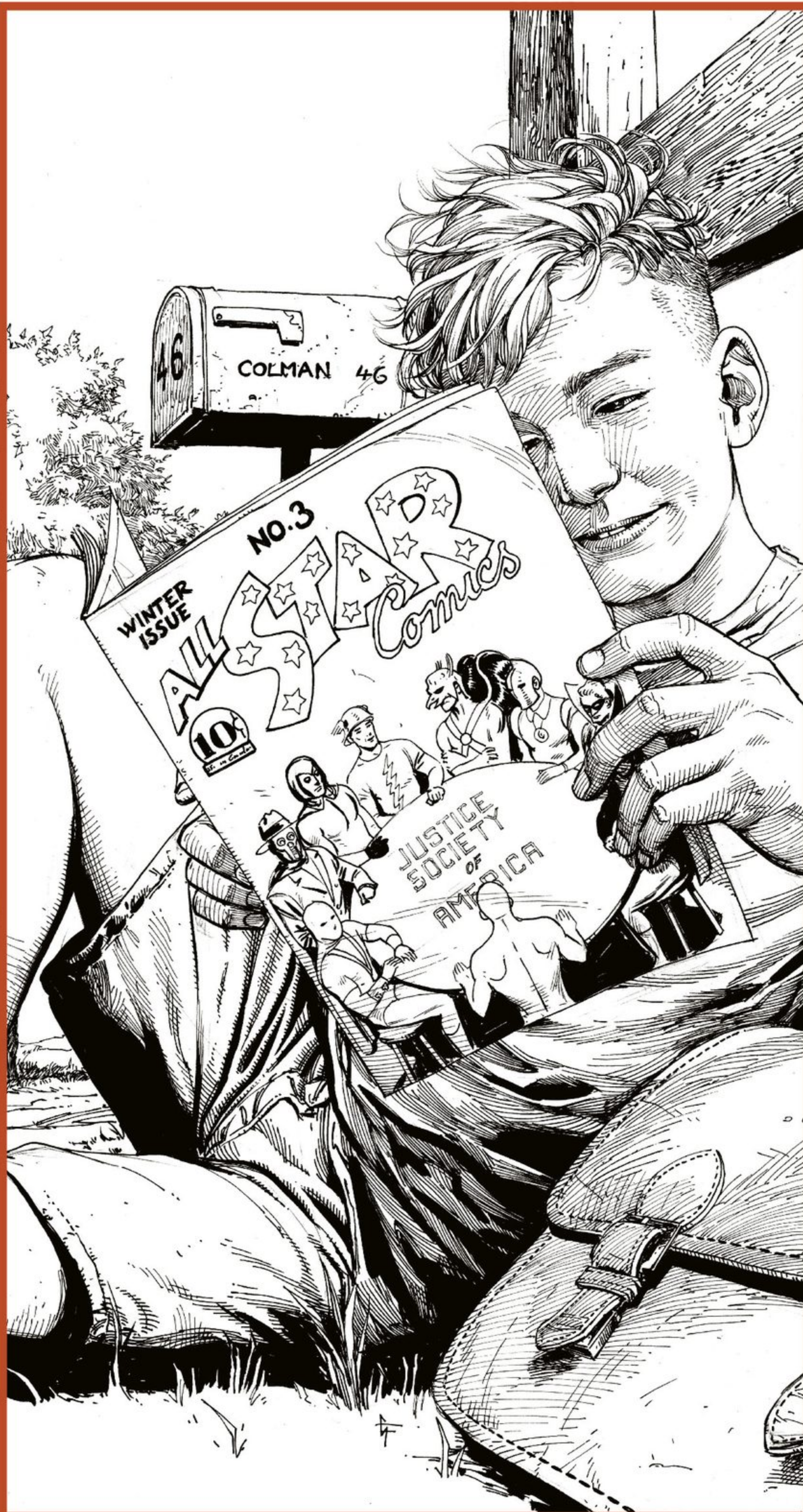


BOOKS



"The super-hero has become a part of American life. It's here to stay.
For better, or for worse."

HOLLIS MASON



A TWELVE-ISSUE DELUXE SERIES

**GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK
BRAD ANDERSON**

FREEDOM FOR ALL

The Freedom Fighters return with a vengeance in the new monthly maxiseries

Welcome to Earth-X: Germany won World War II, the Nazi regime enacted a brutal and ruthless occupation of America and all metahuman heroes have been wiped out. Plus, Uncle Sam—the living spirit of the American people—is nowhere to be found.

But not all hope is lost! In writer Robert Venditti and artist Eddy Barrows' **FREEDOM FIGHTERS #1**, we fast-forward to the present day on Earth-X, where a new band of Freedom Fighters—Black Condor, Doll Woman,

Human Bomb and Phantom Lady—has taken up the mantle of American resistance. "They really are a very cool bunch of characters that I think are uniquely suited to be written about for this current time," muses Venditti.

In preparation for the fight against injustice and tyranny, DC NATION spoke with Venditti and Barrows to get the intel on some of the brave and bold characters making their debuts in the all-new **FREEDOM FIGHTERS**.



JESSE OWENS

"Jesse Owens is the primary historical figure that we deal with," says Venditti. "As much as he was a hero to the United States of America—for many things, but mostly for winning four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin—he would have been public enemy number one to the Hitler regime. If Hitler were to really conquer America, [near] the top of his to-do list would have been to go find Jesse Owens and punish him for how Owens embarrassed him on the world stage."



HUMAN BOMB

"We have two versions of this character: classic '60s and current era," Barrows says of physicist Dave Mathis, a.k.a. the Human Bomb, the only grandson of original Human Bomb Roy Lincoln. "For both of them, I based the new look on the character's original costume, but added contemporary touches to his current version—I added a belt and modified his helmet."

"Human Bomb is a very fun character to write from a power-set standpoint," Venditti adds. "Everything that touches his skin explodes, so that's obviously a very alienating super-power to have—but it also makes him immensely powerful."



DOLL WOMAN

Donna Caprese was an avowed pacifist until the Nazi regime killed her husband, Doll Man, and she decided instead to devote her life to revenge.

"Doll Woman is the smallest member of the team," Venditti explains. "Her power set allows her to shrink down to roughly six inches in height but retain the strength and force that she would have at full size. Although she's the most diminutive, she's also the angriest—and that's because the personal loss that she suffered really drives her. This is about vengeance for her, and that can take her to some pretty dark places."



UNCLE SAM

According to Venditti, "Uncle Sam is the beating heart of America. He is as powerful and as mighty as the belief in the spirit of the American nation." But when the original Freedom Fighters were defeated in 1963, Uncle Sam disappeared—along with all hope of an American resistance.

"Now, the Freedom Fighters want to show the American population that America does have heroes," Venditti says. "They want to find Uncle Sam and bring him back, because he will make the team so much stronger." ■

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RESISTANCE
**FREEDOM
FIGHTERS #1**
ON SALE NOW!

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